ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I owe a deep sense of gratitude to Dr. Basudeb Sahoo, Professor of Economics, N.K. Chaudhury Centre for Development Studies, Bhubaneswar, who despite his very busy schedule of research and teaching activities, keenly and incisively supervised my Ph.D thesis leading to the present work. Dr. Sahoo not only went through the various drafts with painstaking care but also helped me in clarifying several conceptual problems which arose in the development of the study.

I am indebted to Dr. Surendra Nath Mishra, Professor of Economics, Ravenshaw College, Cuttack and to my teacher Dr. Gajendra Nath Das, Professor of Economics, Sambalpur University, Burla for their inspiring encouragement in making the thesis.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Director, Indian Council of Social Science Research, Western Regional Centre, Bombay, the Librarians and staff of Ratan Tata Library, Delhi School of Economics and Jawaharlal Nehru Library, University of Bombay for providing me with all possible sorts of facilities to bring the present work into its fruition.

My grateful thanks are due to the University Grants Commission for providing me with a grant under the scheme 'Financial Assistance to Teachers for Research' without which the present study might not have seen the light of the day.

I acknowledge with sincere thanks the co-operation and unhesitating help extended to me by my friends Sri Rabi Narayan Patra, Lecturer in Economics, Bhadrak College, Sri Dillip Ray, Assistant Director, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Orissa and Sri R.N. Das.
It is my pleasure to acknowledge the patience and skill with which Messrs Oricom Computer Lab, Cuttack and Tripathy Xerox, Cuttack undertook the arduous computational and typing work respectively.

I am eternally indebted to my mother for her kind blessings to complete the study. My thanks are due to my wife, Jyotsna and my younger brother, Kalikinkar who had to bear the family responsibilities when I was awefullu busy in preparing the dissertation, without whose forebearance this work could never have been a reality.

Bimal Kinkar Mohanty